

Telephone call from Mr. Bissell to Col. Burke,
1600 hrs., 28 August 1958.

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Mr. Bissell: The most urgent thing is to get the message out
to that individual (our man in)

25X1

Col. Burke: We are preparing that message. We are clearing it
with the front office and do not plan to get it out until some
time tomorrow so we are sure of all the things we want to say.

Mr. Bissell: I think it is important that we ask permission to
start from there. We ought to say what we would like to do.

Col. Burke: I agree. We should not give them an easy way out.

Mr. Bissell: We had better make it quite clear to our man (but
not for him to pass on to the other) that at worst we would vastly
prefer to start and end up somewhere else. My suggestion would
be not to play it cosy with our man, who will be the recipient
of the message. That will just lose time. He could settle for a
third choice, in ignorance of our second choice. I think we
should probably tell him the whole story but urge him to go in for
the first choice and take the temperature of the water. I think
we would be well off with the second choice.

Col. Burke: It presents difficulties operationally in terms of
dealing with two sets of people, getting two sets of approvals,
communications, etc. It would be awkward but we can do it if we
have to. We did miss your point of telling our man all. We will
cover that.

Mr. Bissell: This message will have to be shown by Jim to the
proper people down in the Division. I would urge putting into this
message to our man the fact that this has now become a matter of
the highest priority and for him personally to seek out the man
with whom the deal has to be made even if he has to track him
down somewhere out of town. This is really important. Also I
think it would be wise to send out a notification to Stan.

Col. Burke: We are also working on that message. Back to your
other point, Gen. Cabell advised that we tell ~~him~~ the specifics
of where and why, and we propose to put that in the message.
I believe you are aware of that but just wanted to confirm it.

Mr. Bissell: I would be disposed to let our man play it a little
by ear but I don't care if the General wants it that way.

Col. Burke: Jim C. said there was a quid pro quo involved there.

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Mr. Bissell: Yes, we have to let them have the results, but we want to let our man know that that will not influence what we want to do.

I wonder if, assuming we carry this one out, whether we should then do one or more of the things we were planning to do.

Col. Burke: I think there is no question of it, if all goes well and any other really important thing develops, we should make money from where we are. However I would much prefer to go where it looks like the going is easier. Say that was fine, and time has past and it is getting darker. We would now like to swing another deal.

Mr. Bissell: I think I read you. If we had to wait quite a while for permission, I wouldn't think of any other. But presuming we successfully complete this one, I would favor going ahead with one or more of the ones we had thought about because it is inexpensive and in every way a sensible thing to do. But I wouldn't raise that issue with the man in the first message we send.

Jumping to Hack, Gen. C. of course told you what we were authorized there and I am sure he will have repeated to you what we talked about on the way in the car. We both agreed conditions would be controlling, in other words if we found an opportunity to do a less ambitious job than the first priority, then we go ahead and do that, although we would put first priority on No. 2, the one we have been waiting for. By the way I would put a lot of priority on that, more than might meet the eye because as you are probably aware, in the new stuff that came in this morning it appears that the area Hack is interested in is hotting up no end. I think I might even myself put a higher priority on something a little closer than what we are waiting for. I lean to the view that that [] ought to contact his clients on this very point. We want to watch that day by day. It got quite a little more heat up just this morning. I think there is going to be something going on there and I think for quite a few days we are going to be terribly anxious whether something really big is being prepared or whether it is something very modest. We dare not take that one lightly.

Col. Burke: We had some information here, too, but not quite to that extent.

Mr. Bissell: On the other hand, in planning, I would not make our plans too ambitious, as that might prejudice the other. I think we could very well find out what we want to in answer to

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*Caution on
China mission*

the question I just raised quite close at hand and with a minimum of exposure on our part and I would favor doing that and not wandering quite a way into the pasture because there might be something interesting in there. I would be very sparing in the sense we do that, don't you agree?

Col. Burke: Yes, however, I wanted to make sure in my discussion at 1:30 today with Gen. C. that No. 2 approval had nothing to do with the other problem. I will look into the heat situation and will certainly agree with you that we want to do nothing to jeopardize the other.

Mr. Bissell: Gen. C. will have told you [] was approved and that we had a talk with our boss at some length and finally talked him into approving the whole plan for Jim's trip. I believe there was some follow up to be done on that?

25X1

Col. Burke: Gen. C. said he would call [] this afternoon to tell him. Also we did something in this regard. Mr. Herter wanted to be briefed on recent activities, so as soon as the aids came back here, Jim C. and Art went over with everything you had this morning minus the papers, ~~and went over~~ to brief Mr. Herter. My namesake in the blue suit also wanted to be briefed and we arranged to have the new Navy man [] go over and brief him (Adm. Burke). Pat asked if he could tell him anything else, and I said yes, go ahead because there is one area where we will probably need quite a bit of support, so I figured we might make a few points.

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Mr. Bissell: Very good.

Col. Burke: Leo and Art and I plan to repeat the same performance in the Air Staff, if that seems o.k. with you.

Mr. Bissell: You will in effect tell them of today's decisions?

Col. Burke: Yes, Leo will also use this information as a needle to get answers to your correspondence which you have been waiting for.

Mr. Bissell: I think I would tell [] that since we now have a very valid reason to be there anyway, we propose to go ahead with the other things if circumstances are favorable--unless there is some sort of conflict of a rather narrowly operational character.

25X1

Col. Burke: Or unless we might jeopardize any business we might have later on.

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Elimt.

Mr. Bissell: Agreed, but I think that is our judgment to make, not theirs. Before, we were talking about going there for the sole purpose of what we discussed. Now we are talking about doing that as a by-product. I would really be quite impatient of their jurisdiction at this point.

Col. Burke: Yes, except from our own point of view for the future. That would be the only limiting factor on how much strength we put into it.

Two other things. X

25X1

Mr. Bissell: You will probably have talked to Jim and Leo on the timing of their trip, and I think we can count on clearance for that in a matter of the next few hours. Some messages will have to go out on that.

Col. Burke: We are shooting at next Tuesday for their departure. There was one question--you were the only person leaning over somebody's shoulder so therefore nobody else knows what was included, and excluded.

Mr. Bissell: I can tell you that, but there is plenty of time, isn't there? You are not going to have Stan in place before I get back. However, I think I can tell you what it is simply--it is the brown line, number one, but with a modification, which I am sure you will understand.

Col. Burke: Is the modification an elimination?

Mr. Bissell: Yes.

Col. Burke: My namesake would be interested, right?

Mr. Bissell: Yes very interested. Elimination of that and a little consequent adjustment which that makes possible. It keeps us a little further away from the beast.

Col. Burke: We are talking about "M"?

Mr. Bissell: Right. What that will do, ^{although} it is regrettable, is make it a little bit easier.

Col. Burke: I am not unhappy with that at all.

Mr. Bissell: We must consider that we got about as much as we could expect, two short-term requests and we got about 90% of what our immediate superior was asking for.

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Col. Burke: I would say we were extremely successful.

Mr. Bissell: One other good aspect which the General may not have mentioned to you, we really got a good reaction on "Q".

There was only one negative and I don't think I can discuss it over the phone. That was the jurisdictional matter.

Col. Burke: General Cabell did mention that--it was a matter of something said to Gen. Twining?

Mr. Bissell: Yes.

Col. Burke: I am going to mention that to Leo. Gen. C. told me to take the pictures over to Andy.

Mr. Bissell: Andy is totally on our side and has undertaken to clarify the issue further. I predict that we will run into trouble on this in the next two weeks or so but it should then get cleared up.

Col. Burke: I think that is what Gen. C. had in mind. He said to let him pump me about the problem. I called Andy this afternoon but he cannot see me until early next week.

Mr. Bissell: If you see him before I get back, mention to him that I would like to discuss briefly with him that question. I want to make clear to Andy, at least, what seems to me to be the several issues involved.

Col. Burke: Incidentally, I am preparing a lot of facts on this.

Mr. Bissell: The way I put it to Gen. C. in the car is that the things you save money on are exactly the wrong things to save money on in this activity.

Col. Burke: He quoted that to me about an hour later.

Mr. Bissell: I think in effect there was no intention to change the method of control but I think Nate is going to go into this and I don't know just what will come out of it.

Col. Burke: I think we not only have a strong case but can build a stronger one on paper. I have talked to Art about it and we have a movement in that direction.

Mr. Bissell: With our small organization...we have been able to achieve things in Walt's and Art's departments by our way of doing things which permits a kind of management you can't get in one 10 or 20 times larger.

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Mr. Bissell: If Andy should call you Tuesday or Wednesday, you might make the attempt to slip your meeting with him until I get back so I may join in your conversation with him as I think it would be worth while. I wouldn't delay it more than a day, however.

Col. Burke: I am sure the earliest he will call is Monday and if possible I will put it off.

Mr. Bissell: One other thing, we should probably tell our friends in [] that we may want to use their real estate.

Col. Burke: We plan to do this through []

Mr. Bissell: That is a good idea and I think we should also tell [] the whole story.

Col. Burke: Yes, we had him sitting in on the rally we had this afternoon.

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Mr. Bissell then spoke to Col. Geary who told him the Itek matter had been settled satisfactorily by Gen. Smart's action.

Col. Geary also told Mr. Bissell that he would recommend to his people against sending back any ill-advised reply to the correspondence mentioned by Col. Burke which might wind up by putting them out of business.